



## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### INFORMATION SERVICE

#### OFFICE OF COORDINATOR OF FISHERIES

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Despite short supplies of canned fish on grocer's shelves, the pack produced by U. S. fisheries in 1944 was four per cent larger than in the preceding year and in one instance -- Maine sardines -- broke all previous records, the Office of Coordinator of Fisheries reported today.

The shortage to the consumer is caused by heavy Government demands for canned fish, a food well adapted to overseas shipment and storage under difficult conditions.

With the exception of salmon and shrimp, all major items in the canned fish pack showed increases in 1944.

The Maine sardine industry packed 3,158,000 cases -- a gain of better than three-quarters of a million cases over the preceding year and the largest pack on record. The year's pack of large sea herring reached a total of 101,000 cases, as against 68,000 in 1943.

The larger sardines or pilchards packed on the west coast also went into cans in good numbers, the pack totaling 3,701,000 cases by the end of December. In 1943, the pack was only 3,388,000 cases, the smallest since the beginning of the war.

The tuna fishery, despite the fact that many of its clippers are still in military service, enjoyed one of the best years in its history with a pack of about 3,500,000 cases. The only larger packs were recorded in 1939 and 1940 -- 3,600,000 and 4,200,000 cases, respectively.

The Pacific mackerel fishery, an industry which normally has a fluctuating yield because of economic conditions and changes in the abundance of the fish, packed about 900,000 cases, compared with 831,000 in 1943.

The salmon pack declined because of smaller runs of fish in some areas of Alaska, where about 95 per cent of the U. S. salmon industry operates. Total salmon pack figures, including the northwestern states and Alaska, were 5,125,000 cases, compared with 5,678,000 cases in 1943.

Largely because of economic factors, the pack of Gulf coast shrimp fell from 441,000 cases in 1943 to 390,000 last year, although an upward trend had set in by the end of the year.